

**DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 18th September 2025 at 7:30pm.
At Wall Village Hall.**

PRESENT	Cllrs: Mark Wood Chair, Joshua Boulton-Baker, Jane Michie. County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Nevin Clerk: Alix Pearson. Members of Public residing on New Lane and on Brunton Bank
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NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
2743	2 Parishioners attended to express their concerns about the road verges near their dwellings. Cllr Azocar-Nevin was aware of the issues and had already visited the site with NCC Highways Officers. A potential solution was being discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the relevant Highways Officers and to include the potential solution as part of the 3 year LTP request.
2744	1. Apologies for absence and Declaration of interests Apologies were received from Elisa Wyrley-Birch, Andrew Gillespie and John Lamb. There were no declarations of interest.
2745	2. Approval of Minutes The minutes were approved as true record of the previous meeting and signed. There were no matters arising that were not addressed in the agenda.
2746	3. Clerk's Reports Financial The Q2 report is not yet due. The clerk gave a verbal update that precept payment 2 had arrived in the bank account and that the toilet grant had been applied for and was expected. The bank balance at 16th September 2025 was £12154 LTP Update There has been a change to the process of priority planning for the LTP programme, which will now run on a 3 year timetable. A guidance workshop had been planned for Monday 15th September, which was cancelled. Priorities for the 26/27 - 28/29 LTP programme are to be submitted by Friday 17th October. In the absence of any guidance, Cllrs proposed the following priorities: Maintenance of the footway alongside the A6079 between Wall and Brunton Crossroads. Overgrown vegetation to be scraped back. Strengthening of the road verge on New Lane alongside Middle Brunton boundary. Exploration of dead hedging option. Further traffic calming initiatives on A6079. Dragons teeth on road at entrances and exits to village. Further guidance will be sought on the new LTP process and these priorities will be submitted by 17th October if they are considered suitable. Consideration of new website and email The clerk had circulated a paper outlining a 5 year cost comparison of three levels of website provision. Cllrs had looked at example websites and found two of the three options circulated provided clear and useful information which might give the PC the opportunity to have a Parish website with wider appeal than simply meeting information transparency requirements. Cllr Azocar-Nevin reported that NCC may also be developing an offer. This decision is to be made in tandem with Humshaugh Parish Council and will be held over until the November meetings.

2747	<p>4. Consideration of ROSPA Playground Report</p> <p>The inspection report showed no serious safety issues and raised general maintenance points which are covered every year.</p> <p>The Chair and a parishioner check the swing bolts monthly.</p> <p>The missing stones on the Rogstad's garden wall pose no material danger to children playing on the play equipment.</p> <p>The suggestion that safety surfaces are required beneath the clamber stack and basket swing are again at odds with the installer's recommendations that they were not required.</p> <p>Cllrs agreed that if there were bark chippings available as part of our planned tree work, they could be scattered beneath the equipment. Report ACCEPTED.</p>
2748	<p>5. Review of Planning Applications</p> <p>25/00833/LBC St Oswalds Cottage The Green Wall Northumberland NE46 4DX Granted.</p> <p>25/01494/RENEIA and 25/02869/RENE</p> <p>Although nether of these applications for solar parks with a combined output of 82MW is in Wall Parish, they have an impact on the local landscape and Cllrs are interested in the decisions. 25/01494 is closed to consultation comments. 25/02869 is open until 25th Sept.</p>
2749	<p>6. County Councillor's Report</p> <p>Cllr Azocar-Nevin's comprehensive report appears at Appendix 1</p>
2750	<p>7. Review of Parish Trees.</p> <p>It is recommended that mature trees are inspected on a 3 - 5 year basis to anticipate any problems and deal with them before the trees become dangerous.</p> <p>The Parish trees, having been inspected 4 years ago require re-inspection. It has proved impossible to contact the arborist who completed the original report, which is the preferred option. The Clerk will contact an alternative Arborist for a quotation for the trees survey.</p>
2751	<p>8. Fix My Street Review</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Wyrley Birch an examination of Fix My Street posts did not take place.</p>
2752	<p>9. Village Hall Report</p> <p>Cllr Boulton-Baker gave the following report:</p> <p>The trustees of Wall Village Hall had met on 16th September..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Thursday night Cornhole chuck around took place on the back green, although was more successful when it was moved to the inner green outside the Christophers house. About 20 people took part overall and one of these participants has joined the Village Society Committee. • The bid to the National Lottery Community Spaces Partnership was not successful. The Chair is attending a briefing next week with a view to making an application to the Bernard Sunley Foundation. • The treasurer reported reasonably healthy finances of £12,000, which includes over £700 of fundraising donations. The PV installation from NCEL should take place in 2026. • The project to purchase the land at the top of the Vicarage garden from the Diocese has broken down. • Once again, please put 18th December in your diaries for Michael Barker's Christmas Concert in aid of the Spend a Penny Fund.
2753	<p>The Chair presented a potential policy on Car Parking to be discussed at the next meeting.</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Thursday 20th November 2025 at 7.30pm.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.30pm</p>

WALL REPORT FOR PC 18.09.25

- 1) **Codlaw dene.** The road U8176 has been resurfaced, however, I was cycling over there the other day and saw that repairs had been made but they stop at a certain point. This is due to the comment on the report that states: 'scheme shortened to aprx fit budget', or just down to boundaries? I have emailed Stephan Sam's and I am awaiting a response.

- 2) **Brunton Bank.** This road is, as you may already know, part of the national trail. The ground near the entrance to a residents home as been eroding away. I had a meeting with the resident to discuss possible ideas to rectify the situation as we both agreed the work that had been carried out by NCC, did not look very asthetically pleasing. The works have also meant that the road now slopes down into the stream which could be dangerous for walkers as the road really only accommodates space for one car. My thoughts were to create a dead hedge that would be beneficial for the environment and look more in keeping with the surrounding area while also allowing water to flow through into the stream for run off.

I met with Glen Harrison who from Highways maintenance and he accepted my idea and even discussed how it could be integrated to the existing work. We discussed the maintenance which would be topping the hedge up with matter that could be collected from tree surgeon jobs around the area and dropped off.

I have since that meeting also contacted Sam Talbot from parks and green spaces as Glen felt Sam would have some more knowledge on how a dead hedge could be implemented. Glen would also like to carry out other works on the road which would mean closing it off from different ends so he would prefer for all works to take place together. I have received an email from Sam today and we are discussing further how to go ahead with this idea of mine.

Who is the farmer that lives there. Glen needs to contact them.

- 3) **LTP.** Have you discussed what your three options might be. I am still working on my 3 that cover this whole ward. As of now I am considering one in Hardhaugh (Fourstones and Warden Parish) Chollerton (which covers Colwell, Gunnerton, Barrasford and Chollerton) and Wark (which covers Wark and Stonehaugh).

- 4) **Working with the community.** I recently met with someone called Juno from the ward, who is very interested in how we can get communities involved with the natural world. We discussed how people are very disconnected from nature and how this

plays a heavy factor on people's mental health. I have some experience in Forest schools and during my time as a councillor I would like to look into this and see if it would be possible to start discussions with people within the whole ward to try and get off the ground.

One comment Juno made that really stuck with me: indigenous nature-close societies teach that a relationship with nature helps us to regulate and balance out all our ways of knowing and experiencing the world, including our intuition, intellect, emotion, gut-feelings etc, so that no single aspect takes over and hijacks our experience/humanity.

- 5) **Local Area planning Committees.** As you may remember me mentioning last meeting, the planning committees have changed from 5 to 3. We are now together with Prudhoe. Last week on Wednesday at full council we chose chairs and vice chair. Martin Swinbank, the Green Party leader got a Chair position in the North Planning committee. I also attended my first community partnership meeting in prudhoe which was very interesting and I would really urge more people to go and express their concerns. We had three presentations, one being, the Head of Prudhoe high school and what they have overcome with the unfortunate temporary relocation of schools due to their own building being unsafe at the time. I was appointed as the Tynedale representative of the 'Tyne valley community rail partnership board. I am waiting for the next meeting to see if I can get on the 'Northumberland bus board' which Nick has wanted for years. And/or the 'Queens hall arts trust'
- 6) **Meeting Joe.** I will be meeting Joe Morris on the second of October. I would like to raise as many questions as I can from all 8 parishes in the ward so I want to ask each PC what might be their top 2 so I can choose the most pressing matters.
- 7) **Connect to work program.** I came across this new initiative the government is taking called 'Connect to work program'. The ambition is for a more inclusive economy which enables people to get into work and to get on at work, ensuring employment opportunity for all. The Government aims to take a more collaborative, locally led approach to tackling 'Hidden Unemployment'. Eligible participants must be a disabled person, or belong to one of the specified disadvantaged groups, such as carer or homeless person. There is much more information to be found on the government website. I have linked the website here.

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Apply online: by visiting the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk) or by calling the Access to Work helpline on 0800 121 7479.

Provide details: about yourself, your workplace, and how your condition affects your work.